



CENTRAL OHIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



Box 1561, Dublin, OH 43017

August 2016

When: 7 p.m., Aug. 17
Where: Oakstone Academy
939 S. State St., Westerville
Speaker: Pre-show meeting
Topic: Ohio State Coin show

August meeting and picnic

Picnic

The summer picnic will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Aug 14 at the Upper Arlington Thompson Park's SOUTH shelter. Flyer attached. *Please bring donations for the club's annual auction at the picnic.*

August meeting

Our August meeting will be largely devoted to the show. However, we will have the quiz, auction and raffle - just no speaker.

Patty Cass says the show sold out on Aug. 8, which is really good news.

However, she said, "We need more members to sign up to be Green Hats. We need all the help we can get. If they work on Friday and / or Saturday, they will get a \$7 lunch voucher.

We're blessed in Columbus to have Dan's monthly show and the annual Ohio State Coin Show. It wasn't that long ago that we didn't have either.

It doesn't work, though, unless everyone who can volunteers. Dealers love Columbus because of the care and attention the Green Hats give them. To keep the show going, we've all got to pitch in.

Help is needed from Thursday setup to Sunday takedown.

Raffle tickets

Raffle Chairman John K wants everyone to know they can pay for their tickets at the picnic or the Aug meeting or last resort at the show.

Show details

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel
Address: 600 Metro Place North, Dublin,
Dealer Setup: Thursday Sept. 1, 3 pm – 8:00 pm
Early Bird Entry: Thursday Sept. 1, 4 pm, Badge \$35.00
Admission Fee: \$4
Hours: Friday Sept. 2, 10am – 6 pm
Hours: Saturday Sept. 3, 10am – 6 pm
Hours: Sunday Sept. 4, 2016 10am-4 pm

Show events

LSCC meeting: Friday, Sept. 2, 9 a.m. Room 183
Grading seminar: Friday, Sept. 2, TBA
Coin Auction: Friday Sept. 2, 6:30 pm
YN treasure hunt: Saturday, Sept. 3 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Exhibiting

Contact Exhibit Chairman Bill K at 614-436-9771 after 8 p.m. or nfld73h@gmail.com with questions.

July presentation



Brad Karoleff holds a piece of the man-eating mountain.

Editor's note: I missed our last meeting but caught Brad Karoleff's presentation at the Central States Numismatic Society's seminar near Toledo this spring. This is a report from that presentation.

CSNS Gov. Brad Karoleff re-imagined a 1970s British TV show, *Connections*, in a presentation linking Black Pepper, The Mountain That Eats Men & John Reich.

Karoleff patterned his presentation patterned after historian James Burke's 1979 BBC television show *Connections*.

In a television show that Karoleff watched with his children decades ago, Burke would "take three seemingly unrelated things and connect them through a series of events and different items," Karoleff said.

Karoleff did the same thing, but with a numismatic bent, tracing Capped Bust designer Reich's work back to the Spanish conquest of the Americas and the use of black pepper in ancient Rome.

In ancient Rome black pepper was an extraordinary expensive spice, worth at times its weight in gold. Marco Polo mentions the spice in *The Travels of Marco Polo*, a journal of his 1271-1295 travels in the Far East.

Christopher Columbus, Karoleff said, was inspired by Marco Polo to find a new trade route to the Indies. The explorer even carried Polo's book with him during his famous 1492 voyage that ended not in the East Indies but in the Americas.

"Christopher Columbus didn't do all this just because he wanted to be of use to the royal rulers of Spain," Karoleff said. "He wanted to become rich. Keep that in mind, all these people are doing things for one main reason, 'I want the money.'"

A few years after Columbus set foot in the Americas, conquistador Hernando Cortes set sail for the New World.

In 1519, Cortes made landfall in Mexico and began a brutal campaign that ended two years later with the fall of the Aztec Empire. Francisco Pizarro arrived in the new world in 1510 and was granted permission by Charles V in 1528 to attack the Inca Empire to the south.

The empire, which had been weakened in the civil war that followed the 1527 death of king Huayna Capac, soon succumbed to Spanish dominion.

"After conquering the Incas," Karoleff said, "Pizarro gives tracts of land and all the subjects upon it to

people in his troop. (Pizarro's half brother) Gonzalo receives a tract of land including Cerro Rico - The Rich Mountain

"Now legend has it that in 1544 Diego (Indian Diego Huallpa) started fire on top of the mountain to keep warm. After a while he looked down and saw that some of the rocks were melting. He decided it was kind of a neat thing and that's how they discovered silver - the silver mountain "

"The Incas were put to work as slave labor mining silver. "The work was brutal, often keeping the natives underground for months at a time.

After the mountain had "eaten" many of the Incas, slaves from Africa were imported for the labor, he said.

Spain established a mint at Potosi to process the ore and strike it into coin. The mint was a major source of Spain's wealth following the conquest.

Karoleff said, the total silver output from the Spanish colonial mints in the New World was 3 to 3.5 billion ounces. He noted, "Enough was mined in Potosi to build a silver bridge from Peru to Seville, Spain."

No such bridge was ever built, but vast amounts of Spanish colonial silver made its way to the United States Mint.

"There was no natural silver supply in the eastern half of North America," Karoleff said. But anyone could take silver to the Philadelphia Mint, have it assayed, refined, rolled and converted to coin at no charge.

Spanish eight reales went in one end and United States silver coins came out the other. Karoleff estimates that more than 80 percent of the silver processed by the United States Mint in the early 1800s came from Spanish colonial coins.

Reich, who arrived in America in 1800, secured Mint employment in 1807 and set about updating and standardizing the designs of U.S. coinage. His Classic Head copper and Capped Bust gold and silver designs spread across all denominations in production.

While his title was assistant engraver, Karoleff said Reich produced at least 270 coinage dies during the 10 years he was employed by the Mint.